



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Maryland Man Indicted in Identity Theft Scheme** **– Case Involves Major Losses Through Credit Card and Bank Fraud –**

WASHINGTON - Oladayo Oladokun, 37, was indicted today on charges stemming from a scheme to take over victims' bank and credit card accounts, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., Shawn Henry, Assistant Director in Charge of FBI's Washington Field Office, Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and Jeffrey Irvine, Special Agent in Charge, Washington Field Office, U.S. Secret Service.

The federal grand jury charged Oladokun, most recently of Lanham, Md., with conspiracy, bank fraud, mail fraud, and aggravated identity theft. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of \$300,000. The indictment was returned in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The indictment alleges that Oladokun and others took over credit card and bank accounts belonging to real people in order to steal money. The co-conspirators would obtain the names and identifying information of victims, and then, using this information, would call the issuing banks pretending to be the real account holders. The co-conspirators would request access to on-line banking, changes to the account address, and replacement credit cards and bank checks. Oladokun and others used prepaid cellular telephones and unsecured Internet routers belonging to innocent persons in an attempt to avoid being traced to the fraud.

Once Oladokun and others tricked the banks into sending them bank checks and credit cards belonging to the victims, they would use the fraudulently obtained credit cards and bank checks to engage in financial transactions such as: buying goods and services; depositing the bank checks into accounts opened in the names of other victims; cashing checks; and purchasing money orders, among others. The loss associated with Oladokun's activities is \$300,000.

In announcing the indictment, U.S. Attorney Machen, Assistant Director Henry, Inspector in Charge Cortez, and Special Agent in Charge Irvine commended Special Agents of the FBI, Postal Inspectors, and Special Agents of U.S. Secret Service. They also commended Paralegal

Specialists Diane Hayes and Sarah Reis, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Virginia Cheatham, who is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

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